

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 25407 141008Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6109

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 25407

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP
SUBJECT: CODEL MONTGOMERY'S VISIT TO VIETNAM

1. SRV LIAISON OFFICER TRAN VAN LAM CONTACTED EMBOFF
EVENING OF AUGUST 13 TO PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM
HANOI.

A. HANOI IS "MYSTIFIED" BY THE CHANGE IN THE
COMPOSITION OF CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY'S DELEGATION.
LIST PASSED TO SRV ON JULY 28 INCLUDED NAMES OF NINE
CONGRESSMEN WHILE LIST PASSED AUGUST 9 INCLUDED NAMES
OF SEVEN CONGRESSMEN. THREE CONGRESSMEN HAD BEEN
DROPPED FROM JULY 28 LIST (PREYER, LEHMAN AND DUNCAN)
WHEREAS ONE HAD BEEN ADDED (BROYHILL). LAM ASKED FOR
CONFIRMATION BY WASHINGTON OF LATEST LIST. SRV
LIAISON OFFICER EXPRESSED HOPE CONFIRMATION COULD BE
RECEIVED BY 10 AM PARIS TIME AUGUST 14.

B. HANOI AGREES TO A ONE NIGHT STAY IN HO
CHI MINH CITY BY THE DELEGATION. THE GROUP WOULD
LEAVE HO CHI MINH CITY THE AFTERNOON OF THE 24TH AND
RETURN TO HANOI IN A VIETNAMESE AIRCRAFT. THE GROUP
WOULD LEAVE HANOI FOR VIENTIANNE AS PLANNED ON THE
25TH IN ITS US AIRCRAFT.

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2. ABOVE MESSAGE PASSED BY TELEPHONE TO VIETNAM
DIRECTOR LYNE EVENING AUGUST 13.

3. EMBOFF SPOKE AGAIN WITH SRV LIAISON OFFICER EARLY
AUGUST 14 EXPRESSING REGRET OVER CHANGES IN DELEGATION
COMPOSITION AND NOTING THAT CONGRESS IS IN A PARTICULAR-

LY BUSY PERIOD AND, THAT BECAUSE OF HEAVY DEMANDS ON THEIR SCHEDULES INDIVIDUAL CONGRESSMEN ARE SOMETIMES FORCED TO MAKE LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN PLANS. EMBOFF NOTED THAT CHANGES OF THIS TYPE AFFECT ALL CONGRESSIONAL VISITS. EMBOFF NOTED THAT FURTHER CHANGES IN DELEGATION COMPOSITION WERE EXPECTED BUT THAT SPECIAL EFFORT WAS BEING MADE TO DEVELOP A FINAL AND FIRM LIST AT THE EARLIEST TIME POSSIBLE. EMBOFF EXPRESSED HOPE SUCH A LIST MIGHT BE AVAILABLE EARLY THIS WEEK BUT CAUTIONED THAT EVEN SUCH A LIST MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. LAM EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING AND SAID HE HOPED FINAL LIST COULD BE DEVELOPED SOON TO ASSIST HANOI IN PROTOCOL AND CEREMONIAL PREPARATIONS. HARTMAN

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